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DESCRIBE SOVIET FORCES IN POLAND

USSR ARMY ACTIVITIES VARY -- Stockholm Svenska Dagbladet, 21 Aug 50

As is known, strong Soviet units are stationed in Poland. Regionally, they may be divided into two large main groups, west and east of the Wisla River. The former may be subdivided into two groups, the southern one in Silesia with Legnica as the center, and the other in the north with Pila as the center. Furthermore, strong units are stationed in Szczecin. All are under the command of Marshal Rokossovskiy, with Colonel General Godunov as his deputy. The combat forces east of the Wisla River are the largest, with emphasis laid on the air force; very little is known about their disposition and command. Foreigners are not permitted to travel to the east and even the freedom of movement of the Poles is very limited.

A very well-informed Frenchman who had long resided in Poland has recently given an account of the Russian-occupied parts of Poland. In contrast to the Germans, the Russians do not visit cafes, restaurants, or bars, but keep to themselves in their camps. They avoid being seen too much. The so-called "Rokossovskiy's army" is an independent army corps of 200,000 men, consisting of all branches. Groups from this corps, which has its headquarters in Legnica, are never encountered in old Poland. This army, completely motorized, is scattered all over the area annexed from Germany. The soldiers are quartered in towns or on former estates, and avoid all contact with the cities.

In addition to its obvious important military functions, the army also engages in agriculture. Soldiers stationed on the large estates do their own plowing, sowing, and harvesting, besides engaging in animal husbandry. Military vehicles are occasionally converted into tractors, paratroopers become tenders of poultry and swine, and soldiers in the motorized units operate harvesters. Agricultural work is alternated with field maneuvers. The army is kept at a high level of combat preparedness at all times. All civilians have been evacuated from the farms taken over by the Soviets. The soldiers in "Rokossovskiy's army" give the impression of being well-disciplined, model units.

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The other group of Soviet combat forces stationed in Poland forms a rather small, homogeneous, and independent unit. These forces are used primarily for guarding airfields. Ports like Gdansk, Gdynia, and Szczecin are under Soviet military administration. Soviet naval vessels often visit these ports. The Polish navy is subordinate to that of the Soviets. The airfields are under mixed Polish-Soviet administration or are administered exclusively by the Soviets.

Another group of the Soviet military forces guards telephone lines, roads, and communications with the occupation forces in Germany. Units of this latter group are stationed at 10-kilometer intervals along the lines of communication. They consist of detachments of less than ten men. In contrast to "Rokossovskiy's army," they do not differ from other occupation forces in any country.

Moreover, there are Soviet officers in Polish units occupying the highest positions of command and in key positions as instructors and political supervisors. Since Rokossovskiy's appointment as Polish commander-in-chief, their number has steadily increased. They are especially numerous in the armored units and the air force. All wear Polish uniforms,

The Soviet units now stationed in Poland differ considerably from the Soviet army which inundated the country immediately after the war. These are well-disciplined troops with good military bearing and correct behaviour. The Russian units not only have been forbidden to fraternize with the population, but every conceivable contact with the people has been eliminated. The Soviet army has been hermetically sealed off from the Poles, and to all intents and purposes does not interfere in the life of the Polish civil population. This is left to the NKVD. Isolation from the civil populace is dictated by the fear that the Russian soldiers might be contaminated ideologically and politically by their Polish environment. For this reason, only completely reliable units are sent to the Satellite states.

SENTENCE POLE FOR SPREADING RUMORS ABOUT SOVIET ARMY -- Lodz Dziennik
Lodzki, 25 Jun 50

Boguslaw Witkowski was sentenced to 4 years in prison by the Appellate Court in Lodz for spreading propaganda. The defendant informed his friends on 13 and 14 June 1950 about an alleged entry of the Soviet Army into Lodz, Lowicz, Skierniewice, and Kutno. At the same time he declared that the Soviet soldiers took over the hospitals and barracks. These assertions by Witkowski were made for the purpose of creating war hysteria and undermining Polish-Soviet relations.

USSR REORGANIZES POLISH ARMY -- Zurich, Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 28 Jul 50

Marshal Rokossovskiy is devoting considerable energy to the expansion and reorganization of the Polish Army, which numbers 300,000 men at present, not including reservists and paramilitary organizations which comprise a total of 250,000 men.

POLISH CAMP HOLDS ARTILLERY EXHIBIT -- Warsaw Polska Zbrojna, 29 Jun 50

A works project fair was organized in one of the Polish camps. The fair included an artillery section with instructions on firing, topography, armament and equipment, a tactical section with chemical training and engineering branches, and an automotive section. The political division and the scientific library were a separate part of the exhibit.

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Of special interest to those visiting the fair were two rifles in the artillery section mounted on special tripods, which resembled machine guns.

One of the most valuable exhibits on display at the fair was the artillery triangle invented by officer Swirski. By using the triangle preliminary firing data can be prepared without using any other equipment, and the time for preparing preliminary operations can be cut in half.

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